Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 12-16 by replacement as follows:

12. (4X amended) A soil treatment process comprising adding an aqueous soil treatment composition consisting essentially of:

(a) an ionic water-soluble fertilizer in an amount of at least 10 weight percent, and

(b) a water-soluble anionic polymer with has intrinsic viscosity of from 9 to 12 dl/g and is formed from water-soluble monomer blend comprising 60 to 80 wt.% anionic monomer and from 40 to 20 wt.% nonionic monomer, the composition having a viscosity of not more than 4,000 cps,

to water, the composition being thereby diluted, and irrigating an area of soil with the water.

13. (amended) A process according to claim 12 in which the soil is irrigated by furrow irrigation, drip irrigation, or spray irrigation.

14. A process according to claim 12 in which water is pumped through feed ducting and a mixing zone to a spray manifold supplying one or more spraying devices by which the water is sprayed onto a crop area and the aqeuous soil treatment composition is metered into the water at or before the mixing zone.

15. (2X amended) A method for the production of an aqueous soil treatment composition comprising providing an aqueous solution of at least 10 wt% ionic water soluble fertilizer (a) and mixing it with polymer (b), said polymer (b) being a water soluble anionic polymer which has an intrinsic viscosity of of from 9 to 12 dl/g and is formed from water-soluble monomer blend comprising 60 to 80 wt.% anionic monomer and from 40 to 20 wt.% nonionic monomer, the composition having a viscosity of not more than 4,000 cps, in powder form.

16. A soil treatment process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the composition has, before dilution, a viscosity below 4000 cPs.

Insert new claims 17-21 as follows:

17. (new) A process according to claim 12 in which the polymer (b) is a copolymer of acrylamide with an alkali metal salt of acrylic acid.

18. (new) A process according to claim 12 in which the polymer (b) is present in an amount of from 2 to 5 wt.%.

19. (new) A process according to claim 12 in which the fertiliser (a) is present in an amount of from 20 to 60 wt.%.

20. (new) A process according to claim 12 in which the aqueous soil treatment composition has a viscosity of from 200 to 500 cps.

21. (new) A process according to claim 12 in which the aqueous soil treatment composition has a viscosity of not more than 1,000 cps.